

SB 1563 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Golden

Senate Committee On Labor and Business**Action Date:** 02/06/20**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 5-0-0-0**Yeas:** 5 - Hansell, Hass, Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Taylor**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/4, 2/6**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Increases maximum size of renewable electrical generation installation that limited renewable energy technician (LRET) may make from 25 kilowatts AC to 50 kilowatts AC. Allows LRET to install all DC wiring and DC connections up to load side of inverter and all AC wiring and AC connections to termination of factory-provided interconnecting cables outside of distribution panelboard. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment *sine die*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Growth of Oregon's solar energy industry
- Changing renewable energy technology
- History of and current scope of work for LRET
- Negotiated agreement to amend scope of work for LRET to reflect current renewable technology
- Support from stakeholders for proposed amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Allows LRET to perform work on renewable energy systems that do not exceed 50 kilowatts AC, including all DC wiring and connections up to load side of inverter and all AC wiring and connections to termination of factory-provided interconnecting cables that are outside of distribution panelboard.

BACKGROUND:

Current statute prohibits a person from performing work on an electrical installation without holding a proper license issued by the Department of Consumer and Business Services. The department administers a series of individual electrical licenses, each of which grants qualified applicants a specified scope of work. A General Journeyman Electrician (Journeyman) license requires completion of a four-year apprenticeship and allows the holder to perform work on all types of electrical installations. A Limited Renewable Energy Technician (LRET) license requires completion of a two-year apprenticeship and allows the holder to perform work on renewable electrical systems not exceeding 25 kilowatts AC up to the load side of the inverter. A Journeyman or other licensee is required to complete the AC side of a renewable energy installation.

Senate Bill 1563-A increases the maximum size of renewable energy systems on which an LRET may perform work from 25 kilowatts AC to 50 kilowatts AC, including all DC wiring and connections up to the load side of an inverter and all AC wiring and connections to the termination of factory-provided interconnecting cables that are outside of a distribution panelboard.